







4th EUROPEAN OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS Sanremo, Italy, June 2009

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Down but Not Out?



Where the magic happens

The completion of the first stage of the European Open Teams Championship saw **De Botton** emerge as the highest scoring team, as they amassed a total of III VP in Group H. In Group R, the teams representing San Marino and Monaco both progressed to Swiss A. The big surprise was the position of the Lavazza squad, who could only finish fourth in their group and who must, along with all the other non-qualifiers, try to survive the repechage.

The Open Teams have today's five rounds left in which to secure a place in the KO stages, while the Women and Senior Teams will complete their qualifying Round Robins.

Today's - Schedule			
12.00/20.00	O/W/S Pairs Registration		
10.30	Open Teams Swiss A&B R3		
12.15	Open Teams Swiss A&B R4		
14.30	Open Teams Swiss A&B R5		
16.15	Open Teams Swiss A&B R6		
18.00	Open Teams Swiss A&B R7		
20.00	Captains Meeting		
10.00	Women Teams Qualifying R6		
12.15	Women Teams Qualifying R7		
15.35	Women Teams Qualifying R8		
17.50	Women Teams Qualifying R9		
12.15	Senior Teams Qualifying R8		
13.55	Senior Teams Qualifying R9		
15.35	Senior Teams Qualifying R10		
17.50	Senior Teams Qualifying RII		



A warm welcome to the Honour President of the EBL, Bill Pencharz and his wife, Marianne, who arrived yesterday.











OPEN TEAMS FINAL RANKING ROUND ROBIN

GROUP A		
I	PAYEN	88
2	SAVELLI	84
3	HUNGARY SZABO	79
4	VITO	74
5	LAZY	66
6	LATIN	59

	GROUP B	
Ι	HOLLMAN	86
	ANGELINI GAROZZO	986
3	ZIMMERMANN	81
4	PISAK	77
5	SLOVENIJA	62
6	SLOVAKIA-KOSICE	58

	GROUP C	
Ι	RADKOV	80
2	BESSIS	78
	GILBOA	78
4	MOSSOP	76
5	JT2	73
6	LIGURIA OPEN	64

	GROUP D	
I	ZALESKI	92
2	KINGKONG	84
	GIB	84
	MRAGOWIA SI	84
5	PATANE	69
6	CALDARELLI	30

	GROUP E	
I	GOODMAN	87
2	WHITE BLI	84
3	TBOKS	79
4	LAVAZZA	77
5	BRUNNER	71
6	DRACULA TEAM	50

	GROUP F	
I	MIZEL	96
2	ANGELINI	86
3	KATT_BRIDGE	76
4	SALOKIN	71
5	AC/DC	61
6	POMERANIA	58

GROUP G		
Ι	KOLATA	110
2	LUX RED LIONS	87
3	SYGNITY	82
4	KANIN	59
5	DIAMS EIGHT	58
6	GILLIS	53

GROUP H	
I DE BOTTON	Ш
2 AUGURI	82
3 COLDEA	78
4 COOREMAN	75
5 LES CHTIS	53
6 GOTARD	50

GROUP I		
Ι	CH. ROSSENOVO	88
2	GOMEROV	86
3	IRENS	78
4	LENGY	76
5	VILLA FABBRICHE	70
6	KOPSTAD	52

GROUP J		
I	HET WITTE HUIS 2	88
2	NONAME	86
3	POLAND	82
4	TERENZIO	73
5	ASH	57
6	HIRTZ	56

	GROUP K	
I	CAPPELLER	90
2	PAUNCZ	89
3	NED WHITE	78
4	CONTRA CERNAT	070
5	WOMBATS	63
6	MCGUIRE	57

	GROUP L	
I	WHITE HOUSE NL I	90
2	IL FANTE DI FIORI	84
3	Shanurin	80
4	KALISH	73
5	THE4TOPS	68
6	HOLAND	54

	GROUP M	
I	NED RED	98
2	GOLDBERG	82
3	BRIDGE PLUS	77
4	VAN MIDDELEM	64
5	HOTEL PARIGI BORD.	57
	ASLANLI	57

	GROUP N	
I	ROUMANIA X	107
2	WAC	81
3	TANANBAUM	68
4	Z-TEAM	66
5	SANTOS	65
6	HAUGE	59

	GROUP O	
Ι	FAYAD	90
	SWEDEN I	90
3	BBO RITA TEAM	82
4	NOSOROG	71
5	ATLANTIC	65
6	GROSS	45

	GROUP P	
	GROOI I	
Ι	WELLAND	87
2	APTEKER	86
3	BEGIJNTJE	83
4	MCLEISH	81
5	DH. SUGAR MILLS	48

	GROUP Q	
Ι	JACOB	86
2	BLUMENTAL	82
	WHITE BL2	82
4	BRODACZE	78
5	PORTO	70
6	MECKWELL JR	51

	GROUP R	
I	BAMBERGER REITER	89
2	S.MARINO/FAZZARDI	80
3	MONACO	77
4	DUGUET	72
5	FICI	67

GROUP V		
I	P.S.	88
	HERBST	88
3	DENMARK	85
4	FRANCE JUNIOR	75
5	CRASHTEST D.	69
6	PONT	42

	GROUP X	
Ι	FUCIK	88
2	O-ROURKE	86
3	HARANGOZO	80
4	ALLIX	73
5	BLONDIE	72
6	Z-TECH	43

	GROUPY	
I	DENMARK B	97
2	MARADONA	84
3	VYTAS	81
4	MAHAFFEY	79
5	ATLANTIDA	65
6	ADAMS	40

GROUP Z	
I TEXAN ACES	90
2 PIEDRA	86
3 LARA	81
4 MESBUR	65
5 KATOK SL	63

JOURNALISTS

There will be an informal meeting of all journalists on Wednesday 24th at 09.30 in the Press Room. Journalists will have a chance to put questions and suggestions to their Executive, and get an update from their President.

WOMEN TEAMS RANKING AFTER 5 ROUNDS

GROUP U I POLAND 109 2 F.I.G.B. LADIES 103 3 HANSEN 89 4 RUSSIA 83 5 DINKIN - NPC 81 6 DUTCH BLUE 75 7 SOLVI 74 8 LEVS 62 **DUTCH GIRLS** 62 **10 GIRLS FRANCE** 61 I I SAGARIAN 47 12 NERE PER CASO 41

	GROUP W	
I	JOEL	104
2	RIMSTEDT	99
3	CBC MILANO	92
4	PENFOLD	89
5	DUTCH ORANGE	87
6	NORMANY	79
7	GERMAN LADIES	77
8	KULCHYCKY	76
9	GREECE	47
10	S.MARINO/PERLINI	45
П	DIAMONDS	33

SENIOR TEAMS RANKING AFTER 7 ROUNDS

	GROUP S	
Ι	AUSTRIA	134
2	FORNACIARI	133
3	FRANCE	126
4	ADAD	122
5	MILNER	115
6	DUTCH SENIORS	106
6	NORDBY	102
	GERMANY I	102
9	ESTONIA	94
10	HET WITTE HUIS	99
П	OTVOSI	97
12	AUTO-POLAND	81
13	HARPER	84
14	VERED	75

GROUPT				
I DAMIANI	123			
2 AVON DANIELLE	Ш			
3 WINANTALYA	123			
4 MIROGLIO	129			
5 GORACO	119			
6 AMORE	113			
7 HEERSCHOP	114			
8 BULGARIA SEN.	115			
9 MAGYAR	107			
10 SCOTLAND	96			
I I CASSINI-FINLAND	80			
12 MARKOWICZ	91			
13 MPE	44			

OPEN TEAMS RANKING SWISS A - AFTER 2 ROUNDS

I WHITE HOUSE NL I	50	WAC	32
2 CHATEAU ROSSENOVO	46	MRAGOWIA SI	32
SWEDEN I	46	O-ROURKE	32
4 ROUMANIA X	44	37 P.S.	31
BAMBERGER REITER	44	AUGURI 39 MARADONA	31
6 IACOB	43	39 MARADONA	30
7 GOLDBERG	42	ANGELINI GAROZZO	30
8 ZIMMERMANN	41	MONACO	30
TBOKS	41	COLDEA	30
NED RED	41	43 BESSIS	29
I I HET WITTE HUIS 2	40	MOUIEL	29
12 PAYEN	39	POLAND	29
WHITE BL2	39	46 BLUMENTAL	28
GILBOA	39	ZALESKI	28
PAUNCZ	39	46 BLUMENTAL ZALESKI HARANGOZO	28
SYGNITY	39	49 S MARINO / FAZZARDI	27
17 APTEKER	38	HUNGARY SZABO	27
GOODMAN	38	KATT BRIDGE	27
19 DE BOTTON	37	52 HERBST	26
NONAME	37	SHANURIN	26
21 GOMEROV	36	54 PIEDRA	24
HOLLMAN	36	TEXAN ACES	24
KOLATA	36	FUCIK	24
WELLAND	36	CAPPELLER	24
25 LARA	34	58 SAVELLI	23
DENMARK B	34	59 TANANBAUM	22
WHITE BLI	34	VYTAS	22
ANGELINI	34	NED WHITE	22
29 BBO RITA TEAM	33	62 LUXEMBOURG RED LIONS	21
IRENS	33	MIZEL	21
KINGKONG	33	64 DENMARK	20
RADKOV	33	IL FANTE DI FIORI	20
33 BEGIJNTJE	32	66 BRIDGE PLUS	10

OPEN TEAMS RANKING SWISS B - AFTER 2 ROUNDS

I LENGY	49	33 COOREMAN	31
2 GILLIS	44	DIAMS EIGHT	31
VITO	44	PISAK	31
VILLA FABBRICHE	44	36 SANTOS	29
5 Z-TEAM	42	KALISH	29
6 CONTRA CERNATO	40	DRACULA TEAM	29
7 POMERANIA	39	LAZY	29
JT2	39	40 KOPSTAD	28
HIRTZ	39	LATIN	28
HAUGE	39	ATLANTIC	28
KANIN	39	43 MOSSOP	27
12 GIB	38	THE4TOPS	27
MESBUR	38	ASLANLI	27
BRODACZE	38	46 ASH	26
15 LES CHTIS	37	VAN MIDDELEM	26
16 DUGUET	36	ALLIX	26
TERENZIO	36	49 MCLEISH	25
SLOVENIJA	36	SALOKIN	25
19 CRASHTEST DUMMIES	35	WOMBATS	25
GROSS	35	52 KATOK SL	24
DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS	35	53 NOSOROG	22
MECKWELL JR	35	54 ATLANTIDA	21
23 PATANE	34	PORTO	21
SLOVAKIA-KOSICE	34 32	56 ADAMS	20
25 FICI LAVAZZA	32	Z-TECH	20
MAHAFFEY	32	58 HOLAND	19
MCGUIRE	32	59 CALDARELLI	17
FRANCE JUNIOR	32	60 BLONDIE	16
HOTEL PARIGI BORDIGHERA	32	BRUNNER	16
LIGURIA OPEN	32	62 GOTARD	14
PONT	32	AC/DC	14
IONI	32	ACIDC	דו



15th Bridgefestival

Welcome to Sweden and the I5th Bridgefestival. With the Chairman's cup and many side events (single sessions) the festival is one of the biggest in the world.

The event will be held in Orebro Sweden from **24th July – 2nd August**.

Free entry for all national teams - check www.svenskbridge.se

For more information contact
Micke Melander at mme@svenskbridge.se

The Psychology of Combinations

by Mark Horton

Most players know a number of suit combinations by heart, but I doubt anyone knows them all. It is possible to work out the right way to play a suit for a certain number of tricks at the table, but one has to be aware that a cunning defender may try to divert you from your chosen path.

I'll start with one of the best known combinations: This is your holding:

★ K Q 10 8

♠ A 7 5 2

Imagine this is your trump suit in a grand slam and that as long as you don't lose a trick in it you will make your contract.

The only danger is a 4-1, split in which case you will hope West has the four card holding, as you cannot pick up ♠|9xx in the East hand.

If you start with the king and both defenders follow with a low card, your next play will be a spade to the ace. However, suppose that West follows with the nine. Now, you have a choice, you can pick up Δx in either hand. It may seem obvious to assume that the nine is more likely to be a singleton than from Δy , in which case you'll want to cash the queen of spades on the second round, and run the ten or eight next if West shows out.

However, a well-read West might play the nine from \$J9xx. That gives declarer a losing option. Instead of being able to cater to just one of the 4-1 breaks, now he can pick up \$J9xx\$ on either side if he guesses right. But, he'll probably guess wrong, playing for the nine to be singleton, and the falsecard will have conjured a defensive trick out of thin air.

This type of play is usually referred to as an obligatory falsecard, as it is the only way to give the declarer a losing option.

As declarer the only way to deal with this is to gauge the ability of the player on your left. However, my inhuman calculator cashes the king of spades and if West plays the nine it continues with the ten, putting up the ace if East follows suit – which gives an 86.74% chance of taking all the tricks.

Now take a look at this combination:

★ K 10 8 6 5

♠ A 7 2

If you need all five tricks you have to start with the ace and hope for the best – only a 9.04% chance.

However, if your target is only four tricks, then you can give yourself a massive 84.77% chance by starting with the two. If West plays the four, you cover with dummy's six and

on the next round cash the ace.

That was how Gunnar Hallberg tackled this suit on a deal played in the ACBL National in Houston, but on the first round West played the nine.

My computer is not fazed by this and simply plays the ten, continuing with the ace on the next round. Unlike the human player, it does not consider that the nine might be a singleton, but simply plays with the odds.

Our human declarer goes up with the king and then plays a low card back to the seven. That costs a trick when you discover that West has played the nine from Φ QJ93.

However, Gunnar says that there is only one player on the planet who would make that play, and Michael Rosenberg was not sitting West on the deal. (Mind you, now Daily Bulletin readers have seen this, Michael should not be alone.)

Don't forget that a defender's play may affect you line of reasoning:

♠ Q 5 4

★ A 10 9 8 7 6

You have two hopes for six tricks. One is to cash the ace and hope East has a singleton king, while the second is to lead the queen and pin West's bare jack but what if your target is five?

My computer says you should play the ten from your hand and run it if West plays low. If it loses to the jack then on the next round you should cash the ace. This is an 81.35% chance.

Of course, this assumes perfect defence. How many West's do you know who would be able to play low unflinchingly on the first round holding Ax?

You will recall that I said some combinations can be worked out at the table – take a look at this one:

♠ Q 5 3

★ K 9 4 2

You only have a 3.21% chance of three tricks, but suppose you need only two?

Suppose you start with a low card towards the queen and it loses to the ace? On the next round you play low towards your hand and have to choose between finessing the nine or playing the king – the latter is slightly better.

However, the best line of all is to start by leading a low card to the nine. If that loses to the ten or jack then on the next round you should play a low card towards the king.

That gives you a 61.71% chance of two tricks – but would be hard to work out without prior knowledge.

Sometimes the way you tackle a combination may be affected by the number of entries you have:

♠ Q982

♠ A 4 3

The best chance for three tricks is to play low to the ace and then play low to the queen - a 22.20% chance.

But with limited entries you could try running the eight. If that loses to the ten or jack you cash the ace on the next round, hoping the layout is like this:

There are many combinations where the best line for a specific number of tricks offers only a limited amount of hope:

If declarer needs three tricks, the accepted play is to cash the ace, hoping to find either defender with $\Diamond KQ$ alone.

However, if the cards are distributed as in the diagram then playing a low card from dummy works just as well, provided that if East goes up with the king on the first round declarer then runs the jack next time, pinning East's ten.

Suppose you have:

When you cash the ace of clubs East follows with the jack. Should you play low to the nine on the next round? It could depend on the calibre of your opponent – a cunning East might have played the jack from \$\\Delta\] I 0x. The human player, well aware of the theory of the principle of restricted choice, might well finesse on the second round, but the computer will have nothing to do with it, continuing with the odds play of the king.

Sometimes the bidding may influence how you decide to tackle a suit:

If you need five tricks from this combination you should start with the king, just in case West has all five missing spades. However, suppose West has indicated possession of a six-card diamond suit during the bidding?

Now you might well start by cashing a top spade in dummy. If West follows with the nine on the first round then you might well play low to the seven on the next round, hoping West did not start with 49 or 49x.

Here in Sanremo, a number of interesting combinations have already made an appearance:

♠ 6

★ K Q I0 7 4 3

The best line here is to play a spade to the ten. This will deliver 5 tricks 17.76% of the time, while the odds of 4 tricks is 61.36%.

Make the holdings slightly stronger:

9

♠ K Q 10 7 3 2

and the odds change when you run the nine: 19.37% and 86.39% for five and four tricks respectively.

This might be a good one to know:

♠ 6

♠ KJ9543

putting up the king on the first round offers a 24.22% chance of 4 tricks and you will score 3 tricks 74% of the time.

How about:

8

♠ A | 9872

Here you have a remote (3.22%) chance of 5 tricks (♠K10 or ♠Q10 onside) while low to the jack scores 4 tricks 74% of the time.

What about:

♠ 6

♠ A | 10 8 5 3

here the right line for 5 tricks is low to the jack (10.33%) but if you need only four then low to the eight is the right move, which will work 74.28% of the time.

I mentioned this one before:

♣ A 10 9 5 2

♣ O 3

The best line for 4 tricks is to run the queen – a 36.49% chance. I was trying to work out why this was better than starting with low to the queen and then I realised that the key situation is something like -K84 with West and -J76 with East. Then playing the queen works in either case, while low to the queen works only in one.

The Night Watch

The Night Watch is the common name of one of the most famous works by Dutch painter Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn.

by Mark Horton

Here are the highs and lows from a couple of the Round 2 matches in the Open Teams, featuring Salokin v Angelini and Fici v Bamberger Reiter. Keep in mind that these matches did not finish until almost midnight, which might explain some of the more obscure decisions that were taken.

Board II. Dealer North. None Vul. ♠ O 8 4 ♡ 8652 ♦ Q 9 4 ♣ K | 3 **★** K J 10 6 A 9 5 ♡ K 7 ♥ **| 4** ♦ K 6 5 ♦ A 10 8 7 3 2 ♣ Q842 **4** 10 6 **♦** 732 ♡ A Q 10 9 3 \Diamond ♣ A 9 7 5

West	North	East	South	
Versace	Kasimir	Lauria	Jokisch	
			IΫ́	
Pass All Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♡	



Nikolas Bausback, Luxembourg

West led a cunning four of hearts and declarer took East's king with the ace and played a club to the jack. When that held he not unreasonably played a heart to the ten. West won with the jack and exited with a club. Declarer won with dummy's king and played a diamond to the jack and king. West played back a diamond, covered by the nine and ten and ruffed by declarer, who cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed his last club. When he played the queen of diamonds (if you believe everything you see on BBO – which I don't) East produced a Grosvenor by following with the eight. Actually I am prepared to bet Ron Tacchi's per diem that Lauria played the ace of diamonds.

Declarer ruffed and tried his luck in spades – one down, -50.

It's hard work trying to make a contract against these guys!

Closed Roor	m			
West	North	East	South	
Bausback	Fantoni	Lofgren	Nunes	
			2♡*	_
Pass	4 7	All Pass		

2♥ 10-13 unbalanced

West led the jack of spades, but when declarer played low from dummy East decided to play the ace! He cashed the ace of diamonds and continued with a diamond, but declarer ruffed and played a spade. West took the king and played another diamond, so declarer ruffed, crossed to dummy with a spade and played heart to the queen. When that held, he cashed the ace, cashed the ace of clubs and played a club to the jack for a remarkable +420 and 10 IMPs.

In my other featured match, one pair showed how to defend against the heart game – and once again the jack of hearts played its part:

Open Room

West	North	East	South	
Smirnov	Fici	Piekarek	Margiotta	
			I 🛇	
Dble	2NT*	Dble	4♡	
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West led the jack of spades and when that held the trick he played another spade. East took the ace, cashed the ace of diamonds and then played his last spade. East ruffed with the king of hearts and that promoted West's jack of hearts for two down, +300.

Closed Room					
West	North	East	South		
Gaddi	Gromoeller	Pizza	Kirmse		
			I♡	_	
Pass	2♡	3♦	3♡		
Dble	All Pass				

It was a pity that the lineup did not bring West from the Open room up against East – I am willing to bet that they might go well together.

East's entry into the auction was very frisky and when his partner joined in he elected to try for a penalty - a somewhat dubious decision.

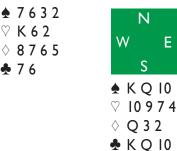
When declarer got trumps and clubs right he was soon recording +530 and collecting 13 IMPs.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



♦ A 9 4

♣ A | 983



Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Smirnov	Fici	Piekarek	Margiotta	
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT	
All Pass				

East led the eight of clubs and declarer put up dummy's king and ran the ten of hearts. East took the jack and cleared the club suit. When he got in with the ace of diamonds he cashed out for one down, +100.

Obviously declarer could have done much better.

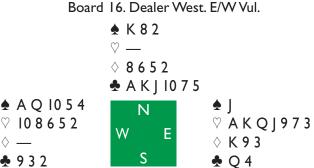
In passing, I'll mention that in another match, Zia doubled 3NT and N/S ran to Four Hearts and found a way to go down.

Closed Room

Balanced 14-16

We	est	North	East	South	
Ga	ddi	Gromoeller	Pizza	Kirmse	
Pa	ss	I 🛇	Pass	2♠*	
Pa	SS	3 ♠ *	Pass	4♡	
All F	ass				
2♠ Forcing with hearts					

We have already seen that Jx in trumps can score a trick, but not this time, as East led a very friendly jack of hearts at trick one. It was plain sailing from there, declarer losing only to the minor suit aces, +650 providing another 13 IMP swing.



9763 ♡ 4 ♦ AQJI074 **8** 8 6

Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Versace	Kasimir	Lauria	Jokisch	
Pass	♣	ΙŸ	2◊*	
4◊*	4♡*	5♡	6♦	
All Pass				

2♦ Non forcing

♣ 932

One BBO commentator suggested that bidding a direct Four Hearts simply acts a transfer to Four Spades by the opponents. Not this time!

North/South did very well to bid Six Diamonds but West did even better with his lead - the ace of spades. A second spade saw East ruff, +50.

Closed Room West North East South Nunes Bausback Fantoni Lofgren Pass 2♣* 3♡ **Pass 4**7 All Pass

2 10-13 unbalanced

The latest WBF list has Fantoni/Nunes in the top two places, but they were outbid here, declarer quickly claiming eleven tricks and 12 IMPs.

Open Room

West	North	East	South	
Smirnov	Fici	Piekarek	Margiotta	
Pass		4♡	Dble*	
Pass	5♣	Dble	5♦	
5♡	All Pass			

3♠

When North/South failed to take out insurance East/West collected +650.

	D
losea	Room

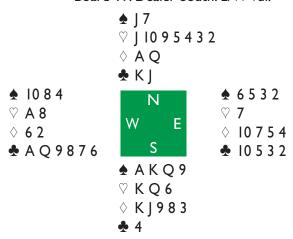
West	North	East	South
Gaddi	Gromoeller	Pizza	Kirmse
Pass	♣	I♡	♠*
4♡	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

5+spades

I would not be completely happy about missing a ten card fit – would you?

On an unlikely diamond lead the contract would be four down assuming the defenders found the cross ruff, on a spade lead three down looks routine. However, when East led the ace of hearts declarer ruffed, cashed the top trumps, drew the outstanding trump, finessed in diamonds and played a spade – the overtrick making the score match the one achieved in the other room, another 16 IMPs.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Smirnov	Fici	Piekarek	Margiotta
			♣*
Pass	ΙŸ	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♡	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5◊*	Pass	7♡
Dble	All Pass		

North/South suffered a major disaster – clearly the problem revolved around the response to 4NT. Declarer was favoured with a diamond lead, so he won with the ace and played three rounds of spades, pitching a club. On the next spade West ruffed with the eight of

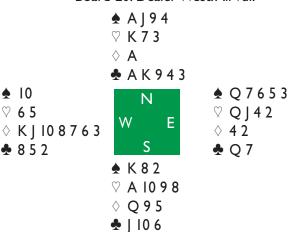
hearts and declarer overruffed, crossed to dummy with the king of diamonds and played the jack of diamonds, discarding his last club as West ruffed, 'escaping' for one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Gaddi	Gromoeller	Pizza	Kirmse	
			I♦	_
2♣	Dble	Pass	3♣*	
Pass	3♡	Pass	3♠	
Pass	4♡	Pass	4NT*	
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♡	
All Pass				

No accident at this table, +450 and 11 IMPs.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.





Alexander Smirnov, Germany

Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Versace	Kasimir	Lauria	Jokisch	
Pass	♣*	Pass	♡*	
2♦	Dble*	Pass	2NT	
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	
All Pass				

Four Spades was obviously an awkward contract.

East led the four of diamonds and declarer won in hand and played a spade to the king and ran the jack of clubs. East won and played another diamond, covered by the nine and jack. When declarer decided to discard the three of hearts he was already booked for two down and another trick also disappeared, -300.

Four Spades can be made, but it is not easy. Declarer must assume the spades are breaking badly when the ten appears. Instead of discarding on the second diamond you overrruff and play clubs. East ruffs the third round and exits with a trump. You win in hand and play a heart, forcing East to split his honours. Then you come to hand with a trump and play clubs. When East ruffs he will have to lead into the split heart tenace.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Bausback	Fantoni	Lofgren	Nunes	
Pass	♣*	Pass	◊*	
Pass	l ♠	Pass	2◊*	
Dble	$Rdble^*$	Pass	3NT	
All Pass				

1♣ 14+(good 12/13) 4+clubs or 15+balanced

I♡ 4+♡

2♦ Fourth suit forcing Rdble first round control

With a void in diamonds North would not pass 3NT.

The opening lead of the ten of spades was covered in turn by the jack, queen and king. Declarer ran the jack of clubs, won the diamond return in dummy perforce, played a spade to the eight, and then cashed his clubs. When East discarded two hearts declarer was +690, which was worth 14 IMPs.

That gave Angelini a 31-12IMP, 21-9 VP, while Bamberger Reiter blitzed Fici 66-0, 25-0 VP.

Message from the Appeals Committee

The Appeals Committee wishes to remind the Players of Regulation 13.4, paragraphs e, f and g:

If a player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there has been a break in tempo, he should call the Director before the opening lead is made and the screen opened. The screenmate of the hesitator shall not draw attention to the break in tempo. A delay in passing the tray of up to 20 seconds is not regarded as significant.





Tournament Program

Mixed Pairs November 5,6
T.B. Pairs November 7
National Simultaneous November 8
IMP Pairs November 9,10
Open Pairs November 11,12,13
Teams November 14



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Fast start

by Brent Manley

With little rest from their marathon performance in helping their team to a berth in the Bermuda Bowl, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell arrived in Sanremo to play on the Lou Ann O'Rourke squad in the Open Teams.

The Nick Nickell team, including Meckstroth and Rodwell, had been knocked out in the semifinal round at the team trials in New York but came back in another long match to win a spot as USA 2 for the world championships in Sao Paulo, Brazil, later this year. Zia Mahmood, another iron-man member of the Nickell squad, is also in Sanremo.

Showing no signs of fatigue, the ever-active pair often called Meckwell helped the O'Rourke squad to a big win in their opening round robin match against Blondie, a team from the Czech Republic.

The action started early. After a push on board one, there was this deal.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♣ 8 5 4

♥ Q 3 2

♦ 7 3

♣ J 10 8 5 3

♣ A 10 9 7 6

♥ 6 5

♦ K J 10 9 8

♣ 2

♠ K

♥ A K J 7

♦ Q 6 4



Pavla Hoderova, Czech Republic

West	North	East	South	
Rodwell	Кореску	Meckstroth	Volhejn	
		Pass	♣	
I♠	Pass	3♡	3♠	
4 ♦	Pass	4♠	Dble	
All Pass				

Meckstroth's 3° was a "good" spade raise (short of a limit raise).

Michal Kopecky, North, made things easy on Rodwell by leading a trump. Rodwell took the king with the ace, pulled two more rounds of trumps, ending in hand, then played the $\lozenge J$, going up with the ace when North played low. When a diamond to the 8 held, Rodwell was able to discard dummy's two clubs, conceding only two hearts for an overtrick and plus 690.

At the other table, Pavla Hoderova and Jana Jankova let their tricks get away.

West	North	East	South	
Hoderova	Jacobus	Jankova	O'Rourke	
		Pass	2♣	
2♠	Pass	3♠	Dble	
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣	
All Pass				

Hoderova started with the $\triangle A$, and she continued with a spade at trick two. O'Rourke ruffed, cashed two trumps and played four rounds of hearts, pitching a diamond from dummy. She lost only two tricks and recorded plus 600, good for 15 IMPs to her team.

Blondie picked up an overtrick IMP on the next deal and another when Meckstroth and Rodwell played 6♣, making seven, on board 4 while Hoderova and Janokova bid to 6♥, making six.

That was it for Blondie's scoring, however. Board 5 was another swing to O'Rourke.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

Doai	d J. Dealei	1401	ui. IN/3 vui.
	♠ Q 9 8 ♡ 4 ◇ Q 10 ♣ J 9 3		2
♠ A 10 6 3	N W S ♠ K 4 ♡ A K J ◊ 9 3 ♠ A Q 8		♣ J 7 5 2♡ 10 9 8 6◇ A J 4♣ 10 5

	West	North	East	South	
_	Rodwell	Kopecky	Meckstroth	Volhejn	
Ī		Pass	Pass	10	
	Dble	Pass	l 🏚	2♡	
	2♠	All Pass			

Vit Volhejn, South, started with the $\heartsuit A$ and the $\heartsuit K$, North showing out. A third round of hearts was ruffed by North as Meckstroth discarded a club from dummy. Back in with the $\triangle A$, Volhejn played the $\heartsuit J$, ruffed by dummy's $\triangle 10$ and overruffed by the queen. North got out with a diamond, and Meckstroth won with the ace to play the $\triangle J$, smothering North's now-singleton 9. Plus 110.

It was a quiet auction at the other table:

West	North	East	South	
Hoderova	Jacobus	Jankova	O'Rourke	
	Pass	Pass	IΫ́	

All Pass

Hoderova started with the $\Diamond K$, continuing with a diamond to her partner's jack at trick two. O'Rourke ducked the club return to East's king and won the continuation with the ace. She played the top two hearts, then a third when the queen dropped, and followed with the ΦQ , ruffed by East. The ΦA was the only other trick for the defense. Plus I40 and 6 IMPs to O'Rourke.

Another dull board was again followed by a big swing for the Americans.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul. **4** ♡ | 10 3 ♦ Q 10 7 6 AQ865 **★** A J 9 2 ♠ 8763 ♥ **765** \heartsuit K Ε ♦ 832 AK | 954 S | 9732 ★ K Q 10 5 ♥ AQ9842 ♣ K 10 4 West. North East South Volhejn Rodwell Kopecky Meckstroth $I \heartsuit$ **3♣*** 40 5◊ **Pass Pass** 5♡ All Pass * Fit

Meckstroth's remarkable 40 bid gave South little room to explore, and it's hard to fault him for taking one stab at a slam.

Rodwell started with the $\lozenge 2$, and Meckstroth falsecarded by playing the $\lozenge A$ when Volhejn called for a low diamond. Declarer ruffed and played the $\clubsuit Q$ from hand. Rodwell won and could have given his partner a club ruff, but he persisted with diamonds. Volhejn put up dummy's $\lozenge Q$ and ruffed when Meckstroth covered. Now a spade was ruffed in dummy. Declarer let the $\heartsuit 10$ run to Rodwell's king, and

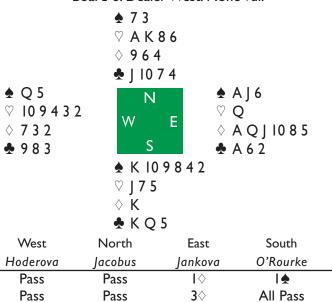
when Rodwell produced a low club, declarer was one down. Rodwell may or may not have known that his partner was ruffing a club, but had he given Meckstroth a club ruff earlier, that certainly would have increased the chances that declarer would eschew the heart finesse.

West	North	East	South	
Hoderova	Jacobus	Jankova	O'Rourke	
			I♡	
Pass	INT	3♦	4♡	
All Pass				

Hoderova started with a low diamond to the 10 and jack, ruffed by O'Rourke, who wasted no time getting the $\heartsuit A$ on the table. When the king fell, she picked up trumps and eventually conceded a couple of spade tricks. Plus 650 was good for 13 IMPs. O'Rourke was now in the lead 35-2.

Jacobus and O'Rourke cooperated nicely on defense on the next deal to earn another useful swing.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.



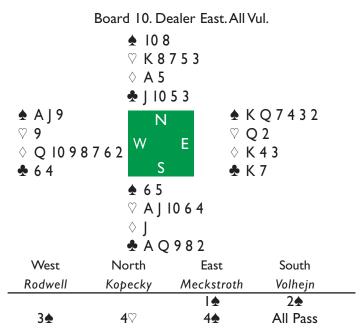
O'Rourke started with the $\clubsuit K$, ducked. She played the $\clubsuit Q$ at trick two, taken by East, who then played a low spade, figuring the queen would eventually give her an entry to dummy for a diamond finesse.

O'Rourke won the ΔK and continued with a club to North's 10. Jacobus then cashed the ∇A and followed with the ΔJ , promoting his partner's singleton king to the setting trick. Plus 50 to O'Rourke.

West	North	East	South	
Rodwell	Kopecky	Meckstroth	Volhejn	
Pass	Pass	♣	2♠	
Pass	Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Volhejn led a low heart to North's king and won the spade switch with the king when Meckstroth played low. A spade was returned, and Meckstroth could have taken it in dummy for a diamond finesse, but he overtook the ΦQ with the ace and banged down the trump ace, claiming plus I I 0 when the $\Diamond K$ fell singleton. Another 4 IMPs to O'Rourke.

The final board of the set produced more misery for Blondie.



Volhejn led the $\lozenge J$ and took a diamond ruff at trick two. In a matchpoint event, he might have considered underleading his $\triangledown A$ for a club through, but that would have been disastrous had East held the $\triangledown K$ – and it wasn't as though North had the option of a clear-cut suit-preference signal on the diamond ruff. So South simply cashed his two aces for one down.

West	North	East	South	
Hoderova	Jacobus	Jankova	O'Rourke	
		I♠	2♠	
3♠	4♡	All Pass		

Jacobus might well have pushed on to the cold 5[♥] had Jankova competed with 4♠, but her pass after her partner's raise was very conservative. Jacobus gave up two spade tricks but easily had the rest for plus 650 and 11 IMPs to his side. The final score was 49-2.



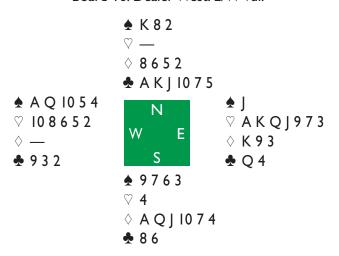
Jana Jankova, Czech Republic

All Well and Good then

by Herman De Wael (partly translated from the original Dutch by the author)

The schedule for Friday night was such that for once the staff had finished before the players, so after dinner I returned to the playing area, and I wanted to watch some bridge by the first Flemish competitors in the tournament. I had not noticed who they were playing until I reached the table. Strangely, there was still room for one more kibitzer, for the opponents were none other than Zia Mahmood and Roy Welland. The very first board I saw brought smiles to everyone's faces:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



Some people follow the rule of not opening a weak two with four cards in the other major, but not Roy Welland, who opened 24 (regular weak two).

Piet Vandereet overcalled 3♣.

Some people follow the rule of not defending from both sides of the table, others that when they do, they have some tolerance for partner's suit; but not Zia, who judged the attacking value of his hand as enough for a leap to 4%.

Alain Devigne would have liked to bid 50 (fourth suit?) but he judged his club tolerance to be insufficient.

Welland's comment when tabling dummy: "Sorry partner, I have only five trumps."

Six Diamonds would have been made without the \triangle A lead, and who knows what Welland would have led after a 4∇ -bid by Zia?

Mixed Pairs Final Revisited

Migry Campanile and Peter Fredin may have missed out on the big prize but Migry came through with a couple of elegant plays on the two following deals.

Board 4. Dealer West, All Vul. **♠** A Q J 3 ♥ Q 7 4 3 2 ♦ 0 4 ♣ K 10 **★** K 4 2 **★** 10 6 5 ♡ 9 ♥ A K | 10 6 ♦ A K 10 9 8 3 2 ♦ 75 **♣** 63 **♣** | 8 4 ♠ 987 ♡ 85 ♦ | 6 ♣ A O 9 7 5 2

West	North	East	South
I♦	I 🛇	INT	2♣
2◊	2♠	Pass	Pass
3◊	All Pass		

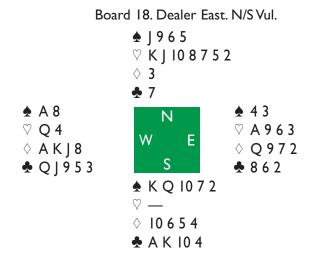
2♠ was going to be a playable spot; but how do you rate West's chances in 3♦? Not so bad on a heart lead, and even one down was going to be a respectable score for E/W,



Peter Fredin, Sweden

since +110 for N/S was a relatively common result.

Fredin led the club king, and Campanile overtook to shift to a top spade (she had promised three or more spades on the auction so the $\clubsuit 9$ was unambiguous). Fredin won cheaply and returned the club ten. Declarer ducked, but Campanile overtook and played a second spade, letting Fredin cash two spades and play the 13th spade, ruffed by Campanile for the $\lozenge J$. that promoted the $\lozenge Q$ into a trick, for two down.



While a third of the tables were unable to resist doubling spade contracts at low levels (or sacrificing and going for 800) Campanile reached a sensible spot on an informative auction.

West	North	East	South
		Pass	♠
INT	2♠	Dble	3♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	3♠
4♣	4♠	All Pass	

The defenders started off on the right footing, leading two top diamonds. Campanile ruffed in dummy and ruffed a low heart, and decided that the auction marked West with a 2-2-4-5 shape. So she led a low spade from hand and West hopped up with the ace to play a third diamond. Campanile advanced the heart king, pinning the queen. Had East ducked she might have held declarer to ten tricks; when she covered, declarer ruffed and drew the rest of the trumps for 650 and an 80% board.

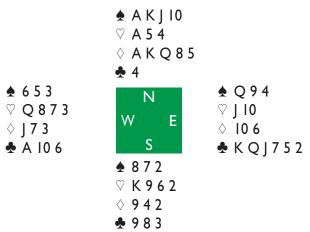
Duplimate Discounts

The Duplimate dealing machines used at these championships will be sold at the end of the event with a 20% discount. Visit the Jannersten Bookshop on the first floor.

Turkish pipe-dreams

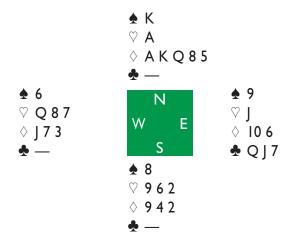
by Barry Rigal

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



Tez Sen declared $4 \triangleq$ on this deal. After $2 \triangleq -2 \heartsuit$ (double-negative)- $2 \triangleq -3 \triangleq -4 \triangleq$.

After two rounds of clubs, he pitched a heart on the second rather than ruffing in. He ruffed the third club and took one top trump then went to the heart king and finessed in trumps. If the defenders had played a fourth club he would have ruffed in dummy and come back to hand with a red suit to draw the trumps.



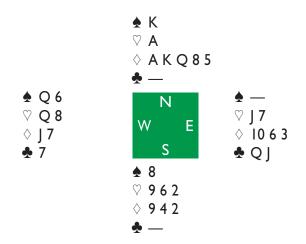
Nicely bid and played and pretty much all of the matchpoints, of course.

There are two curious sidelines. The first is that declarer might take a different route by ruffing trick two, cashing two top diamonds to determine that the suit is splitting, and then to cash the trump ace-king and run diamonds pitching hearts from the board. This survives against all 3-3 trump breaks and also picks up $ext{$\PhiQx}$ offside; declarer leaves two trumps out and runs diamonds and the defence can score only one trump trick.

A second issue is more phantasmagorical. On Sen's actual play, I wonder what would have happened had East been

inspired enough to duck the trump queen? Any plodder could draw the third trump – but of course if the trumps are 4-2 the defenders will run clubs at you.

Let's imagine the ending looks like this instead, from declarer's point of view

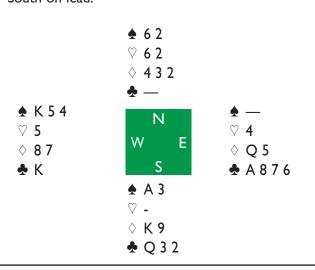


Declarer now settles in to run the diamonds, and when West ruffs the third diamond he can do no better than return a club. Declarer pitches a diamond and ruffs in dummy, then crosses to hand with the heart ace to draw the last trump at trick 13. It does West no good to pitch hearts on the diamonds; declarer still emerges with ten tricks. But as the cards lie, East pitches a heart on the third diamond, and West ruffs the fourth diamond to lead a heart and let East score his $extit{deg}$?



Some of you may find it too much to figure out how to play a whole hand. Here's to you!

The object is to win six tricks with hearts as trumps. South on lead.



Open Teams, Round Robin, Round 4

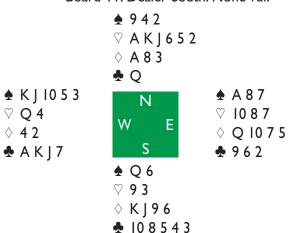
by Jos Jacobs

For round 4, our featured matches are Noname v. Kwiecien and Denmark v. Herbst. Noname is the nickname of a team from Turkey, Denmark speaks for itself (red and white dynamite). Kwiecien and Herbst are easily recognisable as teams from Poland and Israel. Herbst and Denmark were both going well in group X whereas Kwiecien and Noname were doing even better in group J.

The first three boards were not spectacular at all but they produced swings (or did not) that would probably be appreciated by most of the connoisseurs. So here we go...

On the first board of the set, the question for North was: what is your level of aggression?

Board II. Dealer South. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South	
Kwiecien	Peyret	Jagniewski	Erbil	
			Pass	
I♠	2♡	2♠	Pass	
Pass	3♡	Pass	Pass	
3♠	All pass			

Three rounds of hearts, declarer ruffing and proceeding to play a spade to the ace and a spade back. One down, about the par result, I would think. Noname +50.

Closed Room

North	East	South	
Zawislak	Civginer	Pazur	
		Pass	
2♡	2♠	Pass	
3 M	D	Dana	
3 ∨	Pass	Pass	
	Zawislak 2♡	Zawislak Civginer 2♥ 2♠	ZawislakCivginerPazurPass2♥2♠Pass

Here, E/W reached par in the bidding but not quite in the play. After two rounds of hearts, North played the $\clubsuit Q$.

Maybe trying to use his entries in full, declarer next ran the ♠J, running into a club ruff when South turned up with the queen... Down two, Kwiecien +100 and 2 IMPs.

In the other match, the Danes kept their dynamite in store:

Open Room

West	North	East	South	
Barel	Askgaard	Zack	Bjarnarson	
			Pass	_
♠	2♡	2♠	All pass	

Three rounds of hearts actually produced an overtrick when South discarded clubs prematurely.

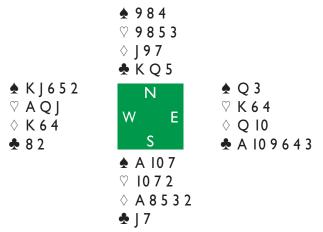
Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Auken J.	Herbst O	Christiansen	Herbst I.	
			Pass	
♠	2♡	2♠	Pass	
Pass	DЫ	Pass	3♣	
Pass	3♡	All pass		

The Israeli approach of a second-round double worked as well as anything. They were left in peace at 3% (no dynamite here either) and thus scored a quiet +140 for a double partscore swing:7 IMPs.

The problem of the next board was about game tries, non vulnerable.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



Open Room

- p				
West	North	East	South	
Kwiecien	Peyret	Jagniewski	Erbil	
♠	Pass	INT	Pass	
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	
2♡	Pass	3♣	All pass	

Forcing INT, followed by a relay but West was not worth a further continuation over the strong club raise. Kwiecien +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Sen	Zawislak	Civginer	Pazur	
♠	Pass	INT	Pass	
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	
3NT	All pass			

Traditional (if at all possible...) forcing NT and game try accepted, as one would expect in Turkey. Nice breaks, ten tricks on a diamond lead, Noname +430 and 8 IMPs back.

Mainly the same applies for the Israelis. Always on the lookout, difficult to get them to miss a game. Herbst +430, on a heart lead, this time.

Open Room

West	North	East	South	
Barel	Askgaard	Zack	Bjarnarson	
♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	
2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Auken J.	Herbst O	Christiansen	Herbst I.
I♠	Pass	INT	Pass

Over the years, some people may become sadder but wiser, as they say. A wise pass by West but a sad result were

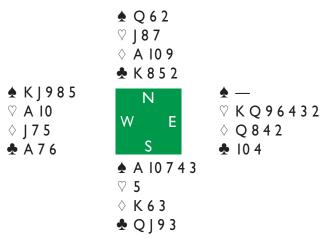


llan Herbst, Israel

the outcome...Denmark +180 but 6 IMPs to Herbst.

The next board was all about staying passive which sometimes proved rather difficult:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.



Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Kwiecien	Peyret	Jagniewski	Erbil	
	Pass	3♡	Pass	

All pass

A solid enough pre-empt, vulnerable in second seat, so a raise looks OK at first glance. However, there are three diamonds for the taking in defence as well as a club, provided N/S ele South led a top club and continued the suit when declarer ducked. Now, Jagniewski won the ace and drew trumps, South discarding a low diamond at his first opportunity. This way, South had forced himself to rise with the king when declarer first led a diamond from hand, allowing the contract to be made... Kwiecien +620.

Closed Room

47

West	North	East	South	
Sen	Zawislak	Civginer	Pazur	
	Pass	3♡	Pass	
4♡	All pass			

The same raise to game here and the same lead, too. Declarer won the first trick and started drawing trumps but South simply discarded spades. One down, the reward for staying passive. Kwiecien +100 and 12 IMPs.

In the other match:

Open Room

	Pass	3♡	All pass	
Barel	Askgaard	Zack	Bjarnarson	
West	North	East	South	

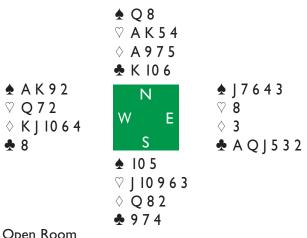
As the cards lie, a sensible pass by Michael Barel. His reward for staying passive thus was +140.

Closed Room West North East South Auken J. Herbst O Christiansen Herbst I. Pass 3♡ Pass **4**7 All pass

The same club lead and spade discards here. Herbst another +100 and 6 IMPs more to lead 19-0.

A few boards later, we saw a push board in both matches where a swing in either one might have looked more appropriate:

Board 16. Dealer West, E/W Vul.



Open Room

	INT	3♣	All pass	
Barel	Askgaard	Zack	Bjarnarson	
West	North	East	South	

The natural jump acted as a shut-out. Herbst +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Auken J.	Herbst O	Christiansen	Herbst I.	
I ♦	INT	3♣	All pass	

See above. Denmark +130.

Open Room

West	North	East	South	
Kwiecien	Peyret	Jagniewski	Erbil	
I♦	INT	2♠	Pass	
3♠	Pass	4♠	All pass	

Majors first proved the more satisfactory solution. Kwiecien +650.

Closed Room

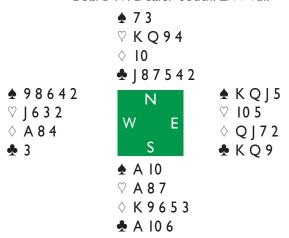
West	North	East	South
Sen	Zawislak	Civginer	Pazur
I♦	INT	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All pass

Fearing a misfit, West gave partner a second chance – an

excellent idea! Noname +650.

On the penultimate board, we nearly saw two pushes again but this time, the proper contract was reached at one table in either match to prevent them:

Board 19. Dealer South, E/W Vul.



Kwiecien v. Noname:

Open Room

open neem				
West	North	East	South	
Kwiecien	Peyret	Jagniewski	Erbil	
			INT	
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	
All pass				

2NT was a transfer to 3♣, the proper contract: Noname +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Sen	Zawislak	Civginer	Pazur	
			I♠	
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	
All pass				

After showing his diamonds by opening I♠, South would have reached an even better contract than his opponents at the other table, had he been allowed to pass...When he rebid, North had nowhere to go. Down two, Noname +100 and 5 IMPs to eventually lose the match 15-19 or 14-16 V.P. A result that would do neither side any harm.

Denmark v. Herbst:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Barel	Askgaard	Zack	Bjarnarson
			♣
Pass	I ♦	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2◊
Pass	3♣	All pass	

A well-controlled longer auction to the proper spot. Denmark +110 as well.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Auken J.	Herbst O	Christiansen	Herbst I.
			INT
Pass	2♠	Dble	2NT
3♣	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	5♣	All pass	

A well-timed take-out bid of 3\$\Displays by Jens Auken led the Herbst brothers astray. 4\$\Displays can be made but 3NT and 5\$\Displays certainly cannot. When declarer played trumps from the top he actually went three down for -150, which cost another IMP but not an extra V.P.

The final result here: 23-12 or 18-12 V.P. to Herbst.

Exemptions

Pairs who may enter the semi-final without restriction are:

In the Open Pairs:

Aronov – Stefanov

Bakkeren - Bertens

Lesniewski – Pszczola

Bompis - Quantin

Lasocki – Russyan

Gunev - Popova

Elinescu – Wladow

Kalish - Podgur

Muller - de Wijs

Bessis - Bessis

In the Senior Pairs:

Adad - Salliere

Lasocki – Russyan

Baroni - Ricciarelli

Grenthe - Vanhoutte

In the Women Pairs:

Michielsen – Wortel

Pasman – Simons

Verbeek - van Zwol

Gromova – Ponomareva

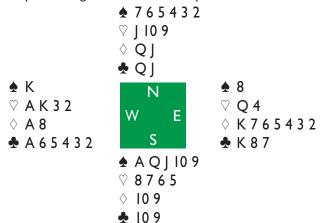
Arnolds - Vriend

Brock - Smith

All these pairs have (pre) registered.

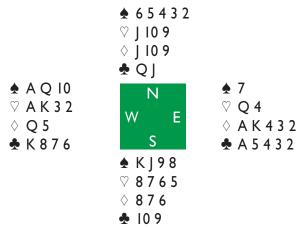
Wishful thinking - Solution

A. For nine tricks in spades without a trump lead, two trumps is enough. Here is one example::

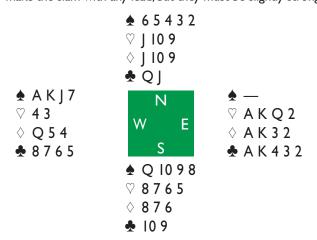


Cash all high cards and ruff a heart with dummy's eight. South follows suit. Then lead a diamond and ruff with the king.

B. Twelve tricks requires four trumps (we think). Without a trump lead the following will do:



West cashes eight sidetricks and ruffs his last heart with dummy's seven. Ruff (overruff) a diamond and exit with a club to enjoy the final trump finesse. Four trumps is still enough to make the slam with any lead, but they must be slightly stronger:



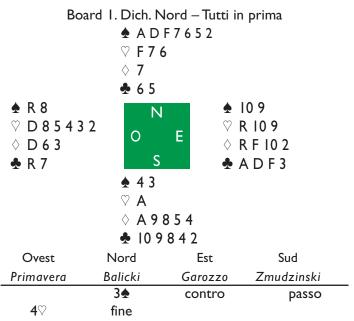
After a trump lead declarer cashes all side winners and ruffs a heart. On any other lead he does the same, then exits with a club.

The above solutions are excerpts from a Cambridge study report.

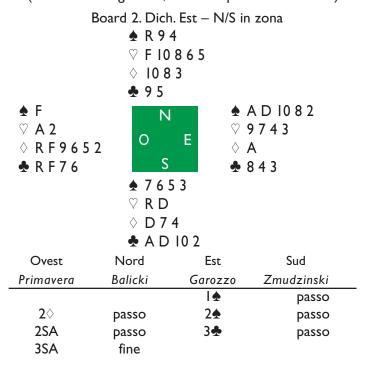
COSE DI CASA NOSTRA

by Franco Broccoli

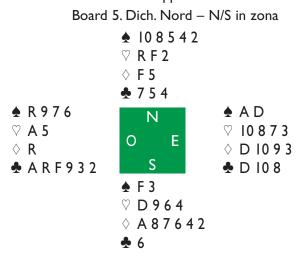
Presto, correte, sta per iniziare. E' un gran bell'incontro. Si tratta di Angelini Garozzo contro Zimmerman. In aperta c'è un tavolo tutto da vedere, con Garozzo/Primavera opposti a Balicki/Zmudzinski. Silenzio e concentrazione: si comincia.



Così, a freddo, nemmeno il tempo di ambientarsi e tu (Nord) esordisci con un barrage. Non è carino. Ed io (Est) allora ti ci piazzo un contro non canonico ma, alla fine della storia, efficace. Dopo l'attacco quadri ed il ritorno per il taglio, Primavera ha chiuso la pratica con 2 down. Come valutate questa mano? Un tot. Per chi? Per gli italiani. Perché? Accidenti se siete curiosi! Ma perché N/S fanno 4♠ e Guerra/Masoero, nell'altra sala, le hanno chiamate velocemente e realizzate in un bit (non so cosa voglia dire, ma dà l'impressione di facilità).



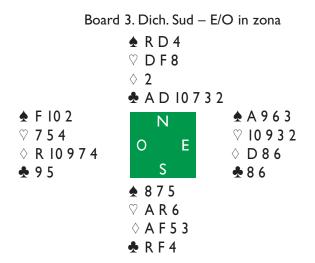
Seguendo il principio fondamentale secondo il quale con due aperture prima si chiama la manche e poi ci si pensa su, la coppia italiana è arrivata a 3SA tramite una licita in cui Ovest ha interrogato con curiosità ed Est ha mostrato un 5/4 ♠/♥. Il fatto che secondo Primavera questa 5/4 fosse massima non deve influenzare più di tanto. Fermatevi a 26 carte, quelle orizzontali, e cominciate a preoccuparvi con una certa intensità. Non c'è un fit spaventoso nei colori di sviluppo, il fermo a cuori è figlio unico, la mano non presenta fonti di prese certe. Ma la triste regola del gioco è sempre la stessa: non si può reclamare il contratto sulla fiducia, bisogna (sogna due volte) giocarlo. L'attacco piccola cuori di Nord arriva con la precisione di una cambiale protestata. Primavera è entrato immediatamente con l'Asso sulla Dama di Sud e, dopo la perdita di qualche secondo alla ricerca della via giusta, ha proseguito con il Fante di picche per l'Asso del morto e la Dama di picche, vittima sacrificale della famosa divinità chiamata affrancamento. Balicki è entrato con il Re e ha proseguito nel colore d'attacco per il Re di Zmudzinski che è tornato quadri. C'era il sipario, non si vedeva bene, ma un abbozzo di luce uscito dal sorriso di Primavera si è visto. L' Asso secco di quadri del morto è stato seguito dal 10 di picche che, facilmente intuibile, ha provocato sentimenti opposti. Buone nuove, anzi, buone nove, nel senso del cortese ed educato 9€ che ha deciso di moltiplicare le prese del dichiarante. La luce dentale di cui si parlava si è intensificata. Dopo l'incasso delle picche (al tavolo c'erano incasso e incassato. A voi stabilire i ruoli) su cui Sud ha conservato la Dama di quadri seconda sbarazzandosi della Dama di fiori, Primavera ha giocato fiori per il Fante e fiori aspettando trionfalmente il ritorno nella forchetta a quadri. 3SA mi. Fermi tutti: mano pari. Perché, vista la situazione multiaggravata di Sud, 3SA si fanno sempre. In poche parole è una mano che serve solo a far cambiare rapidamente umore a dichiarante e difesa, in direzioni diametralmente opposte.



Garozzo/Primavera, dopo lunga, tormentata ma esauriente licita, approdano al contratto limite di 5♣. Limite in quanto di più non si fa con attacco cuori. E' l'attacco cuori è pun-

tuale dopo che hai abbandonato la proposta di 3SA per indagare sull'eventuale slam a fiori. Lo sciorinar controlli e distribuzioni, infatti, mostra anche il tallone d'Achille, il colore dove cercare prese supplementari in difesa.5 mi. Nell'altra sala la coppia avversaria, con licita più veloce, ha dichiarato lo slam e il non attacco cuori lo ha concesso.

Ora guardate quanto è sottile la differenza tra "hanno mancato lo slam" e "ottimo stop a manche".

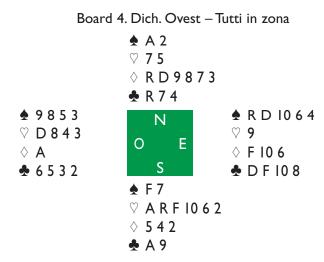


Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Primavera	Balicki	Garozzo	Zmudzinski
			ISA
passo	2♠*	passo	2SA**
passo	3♦	passo	3♡
passo	3♠	passo	3SA
passo	4♣	passo	4 ♦
passo	4♠	passo	5♣
passo	???		
* 🌲			

piacciono le 🕏

Eccoci qua, al redde rationem. Balicki si è immerso in profonda e assoluta meditazione. C'è aria di slam, ci sono i controlli, le atout, tutto quello che serve, però potrebbe mancare qualcosa. Non si sa. Quando è riemerso con il cartellino del passo, Balicki non era per niente contento. La sua scontentezza, però, è durata pochissimo, giusto il tempo di realizzare che le prese a disposizione erano solo II, dato il posizionamento dell'Asso di picche. Eccola, è tutta lì la differenza tra "bello slam" e "stop perfetto", l'orientamento di un Asso che cambia radicalmente, sostanzialmente e definitivamente i punti di vista. Poi ci si può scatenare tutto il giorno sulla posizione sbagliata del Fante di picche ("ce lo avevano gli avversari..."), sulla duplicazione di valori a cuori (10 punti in tre prese. Che spreco! E dire che ci sono tante mani in giro per la WBF affamate di onori..), sul fatto che non c'erano Re e Dama di quadri terzi, fattispecie che avrebbe reso questo slam fattibile, ma chi si è fermato segna e chi è andato avanti sogna (un board più fortunato). Mano pari.

Per la serie "scegliete il contratto", vi propongo questa festa di rossi (no, niente politica, si parla di \heartsuit e \diamondsuit).



La festa rossa è, chiaramente, in N/S ma gli avversari non vi renderanno la vita facile intervenendo e salticchiando a picche. Il problema è che, dopo l'apertura di $I \lozenge di$ Nord, se scivolate in maniera tranquilla e rilassata a $4 \heartsuit$, l'attacco Asso di quadri secco con il successivo ritorno picche che apre le comunicazioni, condanna irrimediabilmente la mano. Se invece attingete il più impegnativo contratto di $5 \lozenge$, vi ritrovate di colpo al par della mano. Complimenti vivissimi, in quanto non è stato un impegno molto frequentato. Mano pari per $4 \heartsuit - 1$. Un ultimo posizionamento che può spostare:

Board 8. Dich. Ovest – Tutti in prima ♠ RD54 ♥ R 10 7 6 4 ♦ D 9 ♣ R 5 **★** 8 7 ♠ 109632 ♥ F95 ♡ 8 0 Ε ♦ R F 3 ♦ 10842 S 98742 A 103 ♠ A F ♡ A D 3 2 ♦ A 7 6 5 ♣ DF6 Ovest Nord Est Sud Primavera Balicki Garozzo Zmudzinski $I \heartsuit$ 2♣ passo passo 2♡ 2SA passo passo 3SA 4♡ passo passo fine

Stavolta è il Re di quadri il protagonista. Se invece di fermarvi vi librate a slam, il monarca a punta assume un'importanza sostanziale. Inutile dirlo, ma devo specificarlo in quanto sono pagato a righe (!), se questa carta chiave è nelle mani di Ovest è un conto, se al contrario è tra le carte di Est è tutt'altra storia, dato sempre per scontato l'attacco nel colore. La sicurezza? Piazzate il Re di quadri senza esitare tra le vostre carte. La morale? Portatevi appresso un Re di quadri. Può sempre servire. Anche se credo che non farete ancora molti campionati se girate con il Re di quadri in tasca... Per la cronaca, mano pari anche questa. Incontro vinto di misura dagli italiani.

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HOLLMAN

ANGELINI GAROZZO

SLOVENIJA SLOVAKIA-KOSICE

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MRAGOWIA SI

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22 giugno partenza ore 9. 30 dal Palafiori - 22nd of June 9.30am departure from Palafiori

La Riviera dell'Olio - The Riviera of Extra-virgin Olive Oil

La Riviera è uno scrigno di tradizioni culturali e gastronomiche. In questa giornata scoprirete il borgo medievale di Taggia, patria dell'oliva taggiasca, e il prezioso Convento dei Domenicani, per poi dirigervi verso Imperia, dove visiterete due ditte storiche della migliore produzione olearia del territorio: la Pietro Isnardi, dove verrà offerta anche una degustazione, e la Fratelli Carli, dove potrete visitare il Museo dell'Olivo.

The Riviera is the cradle of cultural and gastronomical traditions. During this day you will discover the medieval town of Taggia, home of the "taggiasca" olive and the precious Domenican monastery, then proceeding towards Imperia, two historical olive oil producting firms will be visited: the Pietro Isnardi where a taste of their products will be offered and the Flli Carli where you will visit their museum.

€ 39,00 a persona - € 39,00 per person



23 giugno partenza ore 9.30 dal Palafiori - 23th June 9.30am departure from Palafiori

Genova, la Superba - Genoa, the Proud

La scoperta della favolosa Repubblica di Genova parte dal Porto Antico, magistralmente rivisitato da Renzo Piano, con l'Acquario e Galata il Museo del Mare, per salire per via San Lorenzo, cuore del centro storico cantato da De André, con la visita al Palazzo Ducale e ai Musei di Strada Nuova, entrati a pieno titolo nel patrimonio mondiale dell'Unesco.

The discovery of the famous Genoa Republic starts from the Old Port, revised by Renzo Piano, with the Aquarium and the sea Museum, followed by a walk through San Lorenzo Street, hearth of the historic centre sang by De André, followed by a visit to the Palazzo Ducale and the Strada Nuova Museums, part of the Unesco World Heritage monuments.

€ 89,00 a persona - € 89,00 per person



25 giugno partenza ore 9.30 dal Palafiori - 25th June 9.30am departure from Palafiori

La Riviera del vino e dei giardini - The wine and gardens Riviera

Una giornata alla scoperta della Riviera più autentica, con la visita all'antico borgo di Dolceacqua, dominato dalle rovine del castello dei Doria. All'ora di pranzo sarà proposta una degustazione di prodotti tipici accompagnati dal vino Rossese. Nel pomeriggio la visita dei giardini botanici Hanbury, che si stendono per 18 ettari sul mare in località La Mortola.

A day discovering the authentic Riviera, with a visit to the old portion of Dolceacqua town, with the Doria castle's ruins.
Typical dishes and Rossese wine will be proposed at lunch time. During the afternoon the Handbury gardens will be
visited; these gardens extend over 18 hectares of land facing the sea at La Mortola location.
€ 43,00 a persona - € 43,00 per person



26 giugno partenza ore 9.30 dal Palafiori - 26th June 9.30am departure from Palafiori

La favola del Principato di Monaco - The fairy tale of Montecarlo

In questa giornata scoprirete il giardino esotico e il giardino giapponese intitolato alla principessa Grace, la Rocca, dove sarà proposto il pranzo, con il cambio della guardia davanti al Palazzo del Principe e il famoso Museo Oceanografico, oltre ai classici scenari della mondanità: il porto e la Place du Casino.

During this day you will discover the exotic and the Japanese gardens named after the Princess Grace, the Rocca, where during lunch you will witness the change of the guard in front of the Prince's palace followed by the visit at the Oceanographic Museum, along with the classic scenaries of the port and the Casino.

€ 79,00 a persona - € 79,00 per person

Organizzazione Tecnica:

Consorzio

Riviera Holidays
www.rivieraholidays.it

Le escursioni saranno organizzate solo se si raggiungerà il numero minimo di 20 partecipanti.
Nella quota è compreso il trasporto in autobus, la guida, una degustazione all'ora di pranzo, gli ingressi ai musei.
L'organizzazione non risponde di eventuali variazioni imposte da condizioni di traffico o meteorologiche avverse.

Escursions will be organized only with a minimum of 20 participants. The amount covers the bus trip, the guide, a light lunch and the entry tickets into the museums.

The organization will not be held responsible for variations to the visits caused by traffic and adverse meteorological conditions.